

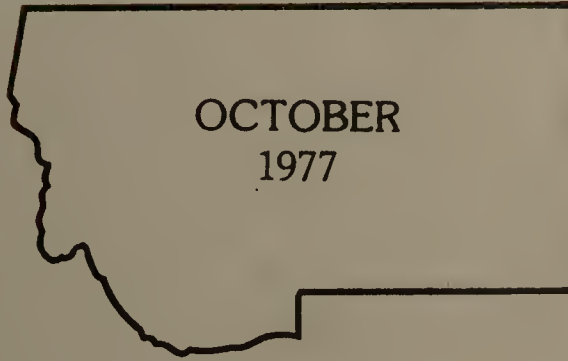
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**MONTANA EMPLOYMENT
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MONTANA EMPLOYMENT AND LABOR FORCE

MONTHLY REPORT

OCTOBER 1977

STATE OF MONTANA

THOMAS L. JUDGE, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
DAVID E. FULLER, COMMISSIONER

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
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Volume 7 Number 10

Produced by:
Research and Analysis
in cooperation with the
U. S. Department of Labor
Employment and Training Administration
and Bureau of Labor Statistics

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

1. Civilian Labor Force - the number of persons 16 years and older, defined as employed or unemployed, excluding members of the Armed Forces.
2. Employed - those persons who work for pay or profit during a week or, as unpaid family workers, work 15 hours or more during a week. Also included as employed are those who, although not working, had some job attachment and were not looking for work, including persons temporarily absent from a job due to illness, bad weather, vacation, or labor-management dispute, whether or not they were in a pay status during their time off.
3. Unemployment - the number of persons who, for an entire week, did not work at all, were able to work and available for work, and (1) were looking for work or (2) would have looked for work except that (a) they were waiting to return to a job from which they had been laid off, or (b) they were waiting to report to a new wage and salary job scheduled to start within the following 30 days (and were not in school during the week).
4. Unemployment Rate - the number of unemployed expressed as a percent of the civilian labor force.
5. Residence Data - a count of employment by where people live.
6. Establishment Data - a count of employment by where people work.
7. Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Series - to facilitate the evaluation of the labor force, recurrent yearly movements have been isolated and removed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics seasonal factor method.
8. Composite Index - an aggregate of six leading indicators. The indicators used are: Manufacturing - Employment, Average Weekly Hours, total Accessions and Layoffs; Average Weekly Initial Claims; and statewide Building Permits. A reverse trend was used for Layoffs and Average Weekly Initial Claims. This composite index is in no manner or form comparable to the United States composite index as published in "Business Conditions Digest", U. S. Department of Commerce.
9. Real Spendable Average Weekly Earnings of Private Nonagricultural Production Workers - represents the earnings of a hypothetical individual after deductions for State Income, Federal Income and Social Security taxes, and adjustment for change in purchasing power since 1967. This individual is assumed to be sole support for a family of four, earn the average weekly gross earnings of production workers in Montana's private nonagricultural industries, and take standard deductions on State and Federal income taxes. Taxes were computed using standard tax tables, and purchasing power was adjusted by deflating Spendable Earnings based on the national Consumer Price Index.
10. WIN - Work Incentive Program for Aid to Dependent Children recipients.
11. CETA - Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of 1974.
12. CETA-CEP - Concentrated Employment Program funded under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act.
13. SMSA - Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area as determined by Office of Management and Budget. Must have a central city with population of 50,000 or more.
14. LMA - Labor Market Area as determined by the Montana Employment Security Division consists of a central city or cities with population of less than 50,000, and the economically integrated geographical area surrounding it.

SERIES CHANGE

Annually, the series in this publication are changed to reflect the most recent benchmark. This procedure is necessary to establish trends based on universe trends rather than sample trends. These benchmark series are usually published in the March publication establishing a benchmark date from the previous year. The reason this publication contains new benchmarks and is being published in July, results from the conversion to the 1972 Standard Industrial Classification codes (SIC) from the 1967 SIC codes. This change, along with benchmarking, necessitated publishing new series on all civilian labor force, establishment, and seasonally adjusted data. All series published prior to this publication have been based on 1967 SIC codes and will no longer be used.

For the convenience of all users and to provide a statistically comparable data base, the civilian labor force and establishment data have been computed on the 1972 SIC codes beginning with January 1972 and continuing through the most recent month. The seasonally adjusted series have been revised from January 1975 through the most recent month reflecting these changes.

Included in this publication are the counties' civilian labor force annual averages for the years 1971 through 1976. The counties' monthly civilian labor force series for 1977 have been included and represent a statistically comparable data base to the statewide data benchmarks and 1972 SIC conversion. The methodology used in computing unemployment is based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics Handbook Method and is adjusted for additivity, i.e., all counties add to the statewide estimates. The Bureau of Labor Statistics Current Population Survey (CPS) method is not used to adjust for additivity.

If you desire more information concerning the benchmarks, 1972 SIC conversion, series updates, or methodologies please feel free to contact Mr. Dick Gibson, Supervisor, Research and Analysis, Employment Security Division, P.O. Box 1728, Helena, Montana 59601. Telephone: (406) 449-2430.

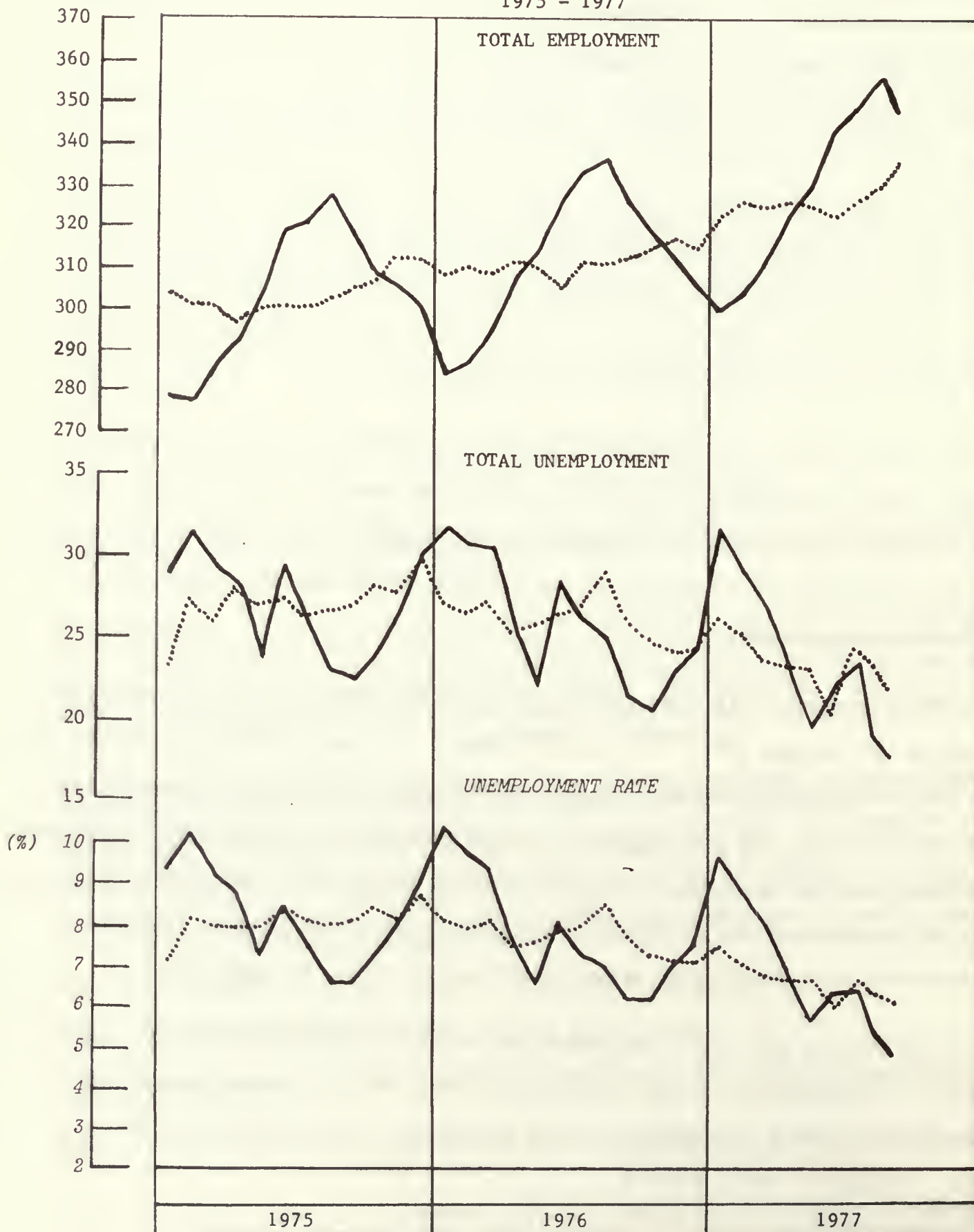
MONTANA EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT, AND UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

(NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED: _____)

(SEASONALLY ADJUSTED:)

1975 - 1977

(Thousands)



HIGHLIGHTS: SEPTEMBER 1977



During the September reporting period, changes in the composition of Montana's civilian labor force paralleled seasonal fluctuations in the economy. Employment in agriculture fell by 11,000 to 38,800 - a normal pattern as harvesting neared completion. Concurrently, unemployment decreased by 1,900 individuals; some unemployed persons exited the labor force to return to school, others found employment in educational service occupations. The net effect on the unemployment rate was a decrease to 4.8%, the lowest recording since August 1973 (4.8%).

The characteristics of claims filed for unemployment benefits revealed no surprises this month. Claimants attached to educational services decreased 20% during the month. The 55.6% increase in claims from government workers also reflects normal activity for this time of year, with the outdoor-related government agencies laying off some seasonal employees as winter approaches. Construction continues to be the predominant job attachment among the insured unemployed, accounting for over 15% of all claims.

Statewide indicators for September offer a preponderance of welcome signs for Montana's economy. The number of workers in all major industrial sectors except two increased during the month, causing total nonagricultural employment to rise by 2,000. The construction and federal government sectors showed the only nonagricultural employment declines, but as previously suggested, these decreases are generally seasonal and should not be interpreted as being abnormal.

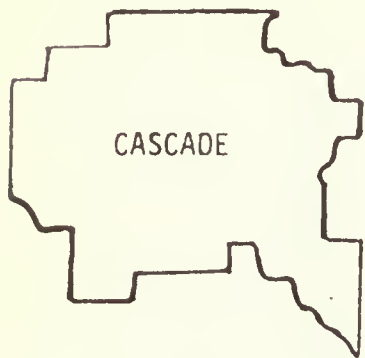
Manufacturing in particular, has shown some very positive activity in recent weeks. Employment was up by 900, and the average number of weekly hours worked rose from the previous month's level of 40.9, to the most recently computed average of 42.6. In addition, the number of accessions increased by 29%, new hires rose by 25%, and the layoff rate dropped 17%, thus providing consistently good economic indications in this area. It should be noted that the processing of sugar beets is a very substantial operation at this time of year. As such, it is a contributor to the increases in manufacturing and the economy in general.

A final indicator of the position of the state economy is seasonally adjusted real spendable earnings. The most current data available reveal that this indicator has shown an increase for the fifth consecutive month, and remains the highest it has been in recent years.

The consistently positive nature of many of the leading statewide indicators bodes well for the economy this fall. Seasonal fluctuations are responsible for declines in certain areas, but these occurrences merely add significance to the other indicators, which are positive.

GREAT FALLS SMSA (Cascade County)

Employment and Unemployment Situation:



In September, 33,900 individuals participated in the civilian labor force in the Great Falls SMSA. This represents a jump of 1,600 people from September 1976, when the labor force totaled 32,300. The number of employed persons stood at 32,100 in September, up 100 from the previous month and 1,900 from the same month one year ago. Employment in agriculture peaked in August, but dropped by 500 to 1,500 workers in September. Within the non-agricultural industries little change was noted in September with the exception of a 600 increase in state and local government employment. In September, total non-farm wage and salary employment showed a 2,600 increase from September 1976, with services, government and trade accounting for the bulk of the increase.

The number of unemployed persons totaled 1,800 in September, down 100 from August and 300 from the same month last year. This brought the unemployment ratio to 5.4%, (6.5% seasonally adjusted). In September of 1976 6.6% of all workers were without jobs.

September claim characteristics from the Great Falls employment office revealed that women filed just over one-half of all claims for unemployment benefits. The largest percentage of female claimants were last employed in general merchandise stores, eating and drinking establishments and educational services. Among males, the construction and trade industries accounted for the greatest number of claimants.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

In September, 36 new business firms entered the Great Falls SMSA. This brought the yearly total to 409, which is nearly double the 213 new firms for the same period in 1976. This indicator of economic activity in Great Falls has remained positive throughout the first three quarters of this year. On the negative side, new car registrations, an indicator of new car sales activity, still remain off nearly 12% from last year's pace.

After over three years of planning, a ground breaking ceremony was held for a new \$3 million luxury condominium apartment building in Great Falls. It is expected to take 18 months to construct the multi-story building. At the same time, construction began on another \$1.1 million apartment complex in the city. These two projects could provide additional impetus for the area's building sector.

The August figures for building permits showed that residential building activity continues to carry the load in Great Falls. Residential valuation for August totaled \$4.3 million, compared with \$3.2 for the same month last year. At the same time non-residential valuation hit only \$860,000 (down from \$893,000 in August 1976). On a cumulative basis, the building valuation is up by 34% for residential and down 51% for non-residential building.

BILLINGS SMSA (Yellowstone County)

Employment and Unemployment Situation:



With the seasonal downturn in agricultural employment and the return to school by many young workers, the civilian labor force dropped for the second consecutive month to 51,400 persons for September. As such, the Billings labor pool still remains 2,500 above 1976 levels. The number of jobholders totaled 49,500 in September, which is just 100 off from August, and 3,000 greater than September one year ago. Agricultural employment moved downward from 2,300 in August to 1,800 in September, while non-farm wage and salary employment rose 600 from last month to 43,300. The basic industries remained unchanged, except state and local government, which increased by 600 workers. This increase is directly attributable to the re-opening of the schools. The wholesale and retail trade industries continue to lead all the major industrial groups in twelve-month employment growth, with 1,900 workers. This is followed by government - 900 persons.

The number of jobless fell 100 from August, bringing the total to 1,900 persons for September. Consequently, the jobless rate fell to 3.7% on an unadjusted basis (4.5% seasonally adjusted). In comparison, 2,400 workers were without jobs in September 1976 - 4.9% of the labor force.

According to claim statistics from the Billings Job Service Office, just over 40% of the males filing claims in September were construction workers and 23% were last employed in some facet of the trade industry. In contrast, eating and drinking places, lodging places, and health and educational services comprised just under 40% of the latest job attachments of all female claimants.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Construction was slated to begin this month on two buildings in a new 100-acre industrial park near Laurel. It is not yet known just what firms will be the new occupants. An announcement was made that, by the fall 1978, a major discount chain department store will be opening its second Billings store in a shopping center just east of the city. The shopping center is actually about 12 years old, but the existing stores are being rebuilt on the site. When completed the complex will also contain a 30,000 sq. ft. grocery store, a 22,000 sq. ft. hardware store, a 12,000 sq. ft. drug store, and 18,000 sq. ft. of space for other retail establishments. Two new fast food restaurants are scheduled for construction in the near future, adding to the growing food service industry in Billings.

The area has been affected by two recent labor disputes. In Laurel, about 27 city employees walked off the job on September 23. Two days earlier a dispute arose between members of the Glaziers Local #167 and management. This dispute affected about 29 workers.

With the release of August and September's building permits, there seems to be no sign of a letup in building activity in the Billings area. Total permits for the two months hit 372, as compared with 297 for the same months one year ago. This represents a 25% gain.



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

In September, the civilian labor force fell 600 from the previous month, moving to 36,400 persons. Since July, the labor force has declined by 3,000 potential workers. This is normal seasonal pattern, with the return to school by many area young people. Those employed totaled 34,200, a drop of 300 from August. At the same time, the number of unemployed persons fell 300, which brought September's unemployment level to 2,200 persons. Consequently, the unemployment rate fell from 6.8% in August to 6.0% in September. In the same month last year, 9.1% of the civilian labor force were out of work. Among the individual counties, the unemployment rates varied from 2.2% in Beaverhead County to 7.3% in Silver Bow County.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

As with the majority of the labor market areas in the state, the Anaconda - Butte labor area showed mixed economic trends. Although the unemployment situation has improved considerably from 1976 levels, the fact remains that only Missoula and Kalispell had higher rates than Anaconda - Butte in September. The number of new business firms has shown positive trends for the labor area - 256 new firms, or 34% above year ago levels. New car registrations, a very good indicator of retail car sales activity has been down in the area all year long, and September's figures revealed no change - the cumulative total through September is still off 20.5% from the same period one year ago. Conclusions to be drawn from these data are that the labor market has improved somewhat since last year, but with an unemployment rate of 6% for September (a normally low unemployment month) the labor market area is still a balanced supply-demand economy.

In the city of Butte, the situation could be improving somewhat, as retail establishments have reported above normal sales for this time of the year. Also new home building activity is maintaining peak levels. The stabilization of employment at the area's large mining concern and an early labor dispute settlement has definitely contributed to this more optimistic atmosphere. In terms of hiring activity, the biggest areas of demand have been in the clerical, hospital, and restaurant fields.

In Dillon, the construction industry highlights economic activity, with work continuing on a 51-unit apartment complex, a new drug store and 12 new homes. It was also announced that three area business people are planning to build a new 3,800 sq. ft. professional building. Details of the facility are not yet known.

The Anaconda area has noted a general decline in economic activity, since the ending of the tourist season. The lone bright spot, was the opening of a new logging establishment - jobs for about 20 workers.

BOZEMAN LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor force in the Bozeman area decreased by 600 persons during September. Reductions also took place in the number of employed workers, which went from a level of 25,400 in August, to this month's total of 24,900. It should also be noted that 100 fewer persons were unemployed in September. The net result of these shifts in workforce levels was another drop in the area's rate of unemployment.

Claims activity in the Bozeman and Livingston Job Service Offices reflect the seasonal downturn in the business sector and at the National Park Service. Initial and additional claims for unemployment insurance have seen substantial increases during recent weeks.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

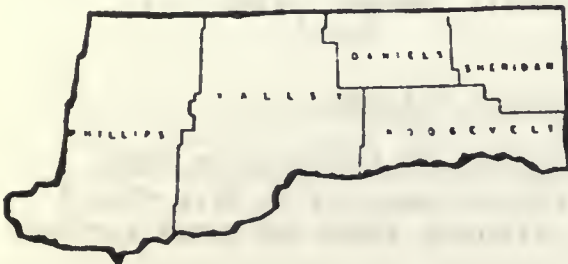
Of major economic consequence to the Bozeman area is the seasonal closure of tourist related businesses in and around Yellowstone Park. Information from West Yellowstone shows that four restaurants and two retail stores discontinued operations until spring, affecting approximately 25 employees. Other areas in the Park experienced similar occurrences as cold weather and heavy rains discouraged extension of the tourist season. Some relief will be felt in November or December with the opening of local ski resorts.

Construction maintained a steady pace as contractors rush to complete outdoor work before winter sets in. In Bozeman small independent home builders continue to recruit carpenters for two to three month jobs. Interior work on larger projects could keep some workers employed throughout the winter. Highway construction in the Livingston area could re-employ 30 to 40 persons; however, at this time, work is continuing on a very limited scale pending contract changes to permit blasting.

In manufacturing, a Bozeman electronics firm increased their workforce by 26 people this past month, bringing total employment to nearly 220 individuals. A new business in Belgrade has completed construction of facilities and expects to be in operation within three weeks. Styrofoam insulation will be manufactured, initially employing 8 to 10 persons.

Heavy moisture during the month impaired clean-up work on grain harvest. During some periods of the month activity was limited to general equipment maintenance and fencing. Potato harvest was in full swing this month with all indications pointing to above average yield. At present no shortage of qualified help exists in the area.

GLASGOW LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

Civilian labor force figures for September showed a decline of 1,300 from last month's level. The 18,600 persons in the labor pool reflect a substantial drop of 6.5%. This marks the first month since February that the labor force has not shown an increase in the Glasgow area. The number of employed workers was also

GLASGOW LMA (Cont.)

reduced during the past month, with the level now at 17,800, compared with August's figure of 18,900. Despite these seemingly negative economic factors, the rate of unemployment remained a very positive indicator with its continued decline. As a percentage of the Glasgow civilian labor force, the number of people who were unemployed during September was 4.3%; a drop of .7% from last month.

Unemployment claims dropped during the first part of October; however, toward the end of the month a rise was experienced as some construction workers were laid off a project at Fort Peck.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Economic conditions in this region are somewhat difficult to gauge at this time. Although the unemployment rate in the five-county LMA has shown positive movement over the past month, certain other factors present less positive indications. The number of new businesses started in September was seven; which is two less than the number begun in September, 1976. The year-to-date total for 1977 was three more than the total for last year's comparable period. Though this shows some advance, the degree of improvement is very small compared to most other parts of Montana. Another indication, new car registrations, still lags behind last year's cumulative total for this time; however in this case the entire state is experiencing similar conditions.

Construction in the region is still active. Work on a Glasgow retirement home has begun and should be well underway this month. The facility has an estimated cost of nearly \$2.3 million and should maintain a good workforce for some months to come.

Reports from local retailers indicate that business has been as good or better than it was at the same time last year. Receipts have been higher than usual at some establishments, but normal seasonal levels have prevailed in most cases.

GLENDIVE LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

A decrease of 600 persons during September has placed the civilian labor force in the Glendive LMA at a level of 15,700, a 3.7% reduction from August. Area employment also showed a downturn, from 15,800 in August to 15,300 this month. Fortunately, there was a proportionally greater reduction in the number of persons who were unemployed, resulting in a monthly unemployment rate of 2.3%. This rate compares favorably with August's rate of 2.8%.

Unemployment claims activity reported for the area has remained relatively stable during the month. Much of the activity which occurred centered on the construction industry; however, job terminations were offset by hires on new projects, leaving claims in a balanced position.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The vagaries of the weather appear to be exercising a great deal of influence on some aspects of the Glendive area economy this month. Intermittently heavy rains have slowed both construction work and the harvesting of sugar beets, although these two areas continue

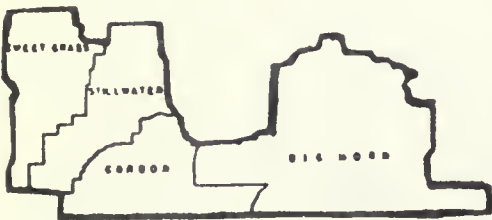
GLENDIVE LMA (Cont.)

to be the dominant forces in the local economy. The sugar beet harvest, in particular, is the source of much current activity both in harvesting and processing. The local Job Service Office in Sidney reports that retail trade has tapered off, due in part to the large number of people involved in the harvesting-processing. Latest news indicates that the harvesting is in full swing and should be nearing completion soon. As this occurs, many people should be off beets and looking for new work.

The number of new businesses is a positive economic indication again this month. During September twelve firms were established in the labor area. This presents a favorable contrast to the four new firms in September 1976. Furthermore, 127 businesses have been started since January, while only 72 were begun in the same time span last year.

HARDIN-RED LODGE LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:



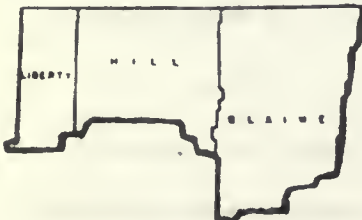
For the first time since February 1977, the civilian labor force in the Hardin-Red Lodge LMA has shown a decrease from the previous month. The force dropped from a level of 14,000 in August, to 13,100 in September. This 6.4% decline was accompanied by a 900 person reduction in total employment, which left 12,500 workers on their jobs during the past month. Fortunately, the number of unemployed was also reduced, and the consequence was a lower unemployment rate of 4.3%.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

As an indicator of economic stability, new businesses in this area suggest a positive atmosphere. Eighty-three new firms have been established since the beginning of this year, as opposed to sixty-nine starts during the same period in 1976.

New car registrations totalled 21 during September, and to date this year 322 have been recorded. Although this number remains well behind last year's comparable figure, the phenomenon is similar to that which all areas of the state are experiencing in new car sales.

HAVRE LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The unemployment rate for the Havre labor area continued its downward trend, dropping from 4.2% in August to 3.8% in September. This figure also reflects a decrease from September of a year ago when the rate was 4.5%. Employment in the area has increased 1,300 from September of last year to this year, bringing the total to 13,600.

Unemployment claims characteristics in the Havre area indicate that the largest percentage of male claimants were last employed in the construction industries; the largest percentage of female claimants were last employed in the service industries.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

New business formations remain well ahead of 1976 totals, with a total of 120 new businesses through September of this year, 35% ahead of the same period a year ago.

A labor dispute involving Havre city workers was settled the last week of September. Services affected in the 12 day work stoppage were garbage collection, sanitary landfill maintenance, water-meter readers, street and water line maintenance, and city vehicle maintenance.

There has been very little activity in the other industrial sectors with only limited exploration drilling. Construction activity has begun to taper off for the winter season. The most consistent hiring activity has been noted in the wholesale-retail trade and service industries.

HELENA LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

In September, the civilian labor force jumped 200 from the previous month to 27,200 potential workers in the tri-county Helena labor market area. Since the same month one year ago, the number of labor force participants has jumped by 3,000, a very healthy 12.4% annual increase. The number of job-holders totaled 25,900 in September, up 300 from August and 3,100 from September 1976. Lewis and Clark County accounted for 21,763 employees, 84% of all workers in the labor market area.

The unemployment situation showed improvement again in September as the jobless rolls fell 100 from August, bringing the total to 1,300 persons. This follows a 200 decline from July to August. The ratio of unemployed persons to the total labor force hit 4.8% in September, compared with 5.1% in August. The improvement in the labor market can best be noticed in the unemployment figure. The rate has dropped a full percentage point from the 5.8% rate recorded for September of last year. Of the three individual counties, only Jefferson realized a rate above 5%, with a 6.2% unemployment rate.

According to claimant characteristics from the Helena Job Service office for September, the number of filers for unemployment insurance was nearly divided evenly between males and females - 54% males, 46% females. The bulk of the males were last employed in lumber and wood products, construction, and health services, while the largest number of females came from jobs in food service, motel-hotel businesses and the health service field.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

In the first ten months of 1977, 290 new business establishments were created in the Helena labor area, which represents nearly a 70% gain over the same period a year ago. This indicator has shown positive trends in the Helena area throughout the year and at a growth rate higher than the state as a whole. For some unknown reason, Montana has not noticed the new car sales boom experienced by the rest of the nation during 1977. In fact, nearly every labor area is running below 1976 levels, with Helena being no exception. However, September figures revealed that the gap was again narrowed for the Helena area, with a cumulative total of 1,312 new car registrations, compared with 1,346 for 1976.

HELENA LMA (Cont.)

The improvement in new car sales may be offset by a "crest" in building activity, particularly in the city of Helena. The valuation in permits issued by the city totaled \$13,847,470 for January through September 1977, which is below the \$14,360,834 total for the same period in 1976. The feeling in the area is that with the growing inventory of unsold houses, the heightened pace of building activity can no longer be sustained. This trend also correlates with national building statistics, where an increase in the volume of unsold houses has been noted.

Business activity has been enhanced lately with the opening of a new fast food restaurant in Helena. The establishment employs about 60 people, mostly students, on a part-time basis. The new facility has been under construction since late last spring. It was also reported that one of the city's current chain grocery establishments will be starting construction of a new facility in the near future. The new store will contain about twice as much square footage as the current store. Another large grocery store is expected to move into their second Helena store by early December. The second store is expected to employ about 100 workers.

KALISPELL LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:



A 900 person drop in the civilian labor force this month reduced the total number of persons in the labor pool to 34,000. Of that number, those workers who were employed amounted to 31,600, which was 1.9% less than last month's total. However, these changes should not be interpreted as being adverse, because such reductions reflect normal seasonal variations. Furthermore, the number of workers who were unemployed was also reduced, resulting in an unemployment rate of 7.0%. This compares with a rate of 7.6% last month, and thus provides a positive economic indication for the area.

Most of the unemployment claims filed in the Kalispell LMA, were once again in the construction and lumber industries. A slight increase in overall claims volume has been due in great part to the slowdown beginning in the construction sector.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Normal seasonality is one of the most important factors influencing the area economy and employment this month. Reports from local offices suggest a gradual slowdown in the contract construction industry, with most work coming from previously started projects. As the weather becomes less mild, activity should slacken even more. Layoffs continue at a high rate among government workers in the U.S. Forest Service and National Park Service, however these too are attributable to the seasonal nature of the work.

In the lumber and wood products industries business has been interrupted in some locations by shutdowns for repairs. The closures have generally been of short duration, however, in at least one instance the number of workers affected is substantial. Some 400 to 600 persons at a large Libby area mill are expected to be off for a period of one or two weeks.

Elsewhere in the manufacturing sector, the processing of Christmas trees and production of Christmas wreaths is well underway in the Kalispell area. Reports suggest that this work could employ as many as 300 persons on a temporary basis.

KALISPELL LMA (Cont.)

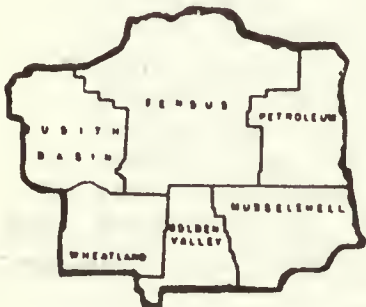
The permanent closing of a camper manufacturer in Kalispell this month has cost the jobs of more than 60 workers in that firm. The absence of the corporation could also affect some jobs at a camper upholstery manufacturer in Ravalli, and the loss will undoubtedly be felt in other ways throughout this area.

Activity in the trade and service sectors of the economy has subsided gradually this month. Most hiring being done is for replacement only, and little change should be expected until the beginning of the holiday season.

On a more positive note, the number of new business firms established in the Kalispell LMA was 57 for September, compared with last year's figure of 36 for the same month. Furthermore, the pace set in the establishment of new businesses to date this year is far ahead of last year's with 452 firms started thus far in 1977 while only 299 were begun during the same period in 1976.

Finally, work in agriculture has revolved around the October potato harvest. Latest reports indicate that the harvest is virtually complete, and a general dormancy is expected in the agricultural sector until spring.

LEWISTOWN LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor force in the Lewistown labor area reflected a seasonal trend with a drop of 1,000 individuals from August to September, bringing the total to 11,600. This figure is comparable to September of a year ago. Employment also decreased, from 12,200 in August to 11,300 in September - virtually unchanged from a year ago. Nevertheless, the unemployment rate has shown a steady decline, down to 3.0% for September of this year. That figure is a decrease from the 3.5% rate recorded in August and 3.8% in September of a year ago.

Unemployment claims characteristics reveal a concentration of individuals last employed in the construction industry for males and services industries for females.

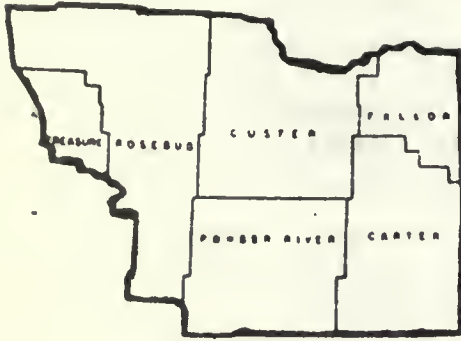
Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

New business formations again showed a gain in the Lewistown area with 8 new businesses registered for September, the cumulative total for the first 9 months of this year is 87. This is an 89% increase over the same period a year ago.

Construction projects remain the predominant economic activity with most projects already in progress or near completion at this time. These projects include: a new bank, 16 new homes, 2 new churches, 100 new trailer spaces, and several remodeling projects.

Work on improving missile silos and the launch control centers for missile sites in central Montana has been curtailed due to a labor dispute involving those unions on the project.

MILES CITY LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor force for the Miles City labor market area experienced a down turn for the month of September, dropping from a total of 17,000 in August to a current level of 15,900. This seasonal fluctuation is also present in the number of actively employed persons, which fell from 16,400 in August, to 15,400 in September. That figure is still well ahead of September a year ago, when there were 14,300 employed persons in the area. At the same time, the unemployment rate dropped slightly; to 3.3% from 3.5% registered in August and the 3.8% rate of September a year ago.

Unemployment claims characteristics for the Miles City area show that the majority of male claimants last worked in the construction industry while a large percentage of the female claimants were last employed in the service and trade industries.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The area economy remains stable, with building permits keeping pace with third quarter totals of a year ago. Also, new business registrations have maintained the same year-to-date level as in 1976.

The local economy received a minor setback in the first part of October when excavation work on Colstrip Units 3 and 4 was halted by an Environmental Protection Agency order. Reports indicate the earliest work could continue would be mid-November. The shutdown affected approximately 120 workers.

In the agricultural sector, a near record beet harvest is winding down, with completion expected by the end of October.

MISSOULA LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The unemployment rate in the Missoula labor area continued its downward trend, dropping to 6.2% in September from the 6.6% rate registered in August. This reflects a sizeable decrease from the 8.3% rate in September of a year ago. This large decrease over the past year was brought about largely due to an increase in employment of 5,600, bringing the total for September of this year to 45,300, a 14.1% increase over last year. At the same time, the number of unemployed persons dropped by 600, making the total 3,000 for September of this year.

The unemployment claims characteristics were seasonally normal for this area of the state in September. Male claimants predominantly listed lumber and wood products as well as construction as their last industrial attachment, with these two industries contributing 36% of all male claims. Female claims were concentrated in trade and services with 55% of the female claimants coming from these industries.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

New business formations continues to be one of the positive economic factors in the Missoula labor area with 71 new firms registered in September. This brings the total for the year to 591, 66% ahead of the same period a year ago. Also, 133 building permits were issued in September, well ahead of the 115 issued the same month a year ago. Building permits issued for the third quarter now total 376, 33% more than the same period a year ago. On the negative side, new car registrations are still lagging, 16% below the same period of a year ago.

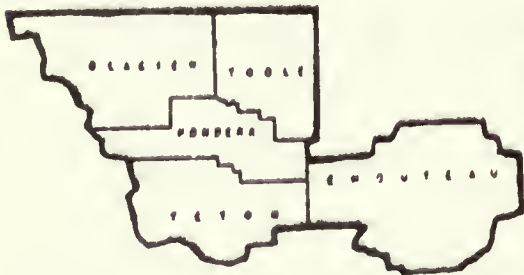
Several construction projects highlight the Missoula area economic picture. These include construction of a new bank, a new restaurant, addition to a hospital, and 14 new duplexes. The contract has been awarded for construction of the new terminal at the airport and will begin soon. A newly completed catalog merchandise store opened for business, employing approximately 130 employees.

Construction has begun on a Hamilton area manufacturing plant that will turn out plastic parts for the U.S. Navy's Trident missile and a wide range of other products. A newly formed company, which will specialize in solar energy equipment, expects to break ground this month for a 4,000 square feet manufacturing and testing plant near Stevensville.

In the agricultural sector, the apple and potato harvest as well as the sugar beet harvest should be near completion.

SHELBY LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:



Employment and unemployment in the Shelby LMA exhibited the same characteristics as have been seen in other areas throughout the state. That is, declines were registered in the civilian labor force, total employment, unemployment, and, perhaps most significantly, the rate of unemployment. The total number of persons in the labor force dropped 1,300, to a current level of 19,300. Individuals who are presently employed decreased 1,200, for a September total of 18,400. In spite of the drop in employment,

the decline in the ranks of the unemployed had a more consequential effect on the labor market's unemployment rate, which dropped from 4.8% in August to 4.5% this month.

Unemployment claims activity was mixed during the month. Generally good weather was responsible for hiring and recall in the construction and oilfield operations, and this offset any increases in claims near the end of the month due to the labor dispute involving workers on missile site improvements.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Current economic and employment conditions in the region have remained very stable during the past month. The number of new businesses started to date this year is still well ahead of the pace set last year, with 150 firms opened since January. This compares with 104 during the first nine months of 1976.

Construction continues at a brisk pace with workers trying to complete projects before the weather prohibits extensive outdoor labor. In addition, plans for two new projects have been announced recently.

SHELBY LMA (Cont.)

A Great Falls banking institution has started work on a building to house its Conrad division, and preliminary estimates are for an opening in April 1978. This unique structure will be 2,200 square feet in area and will be heated by solar energy. The cost should be in the neighborhood of \$140,000.

No major developments have occurred in the other industrial sectors, as all reports describe steady business conditions in the labor market area.

MANPOWER PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

SEPTEMBER 1977

<u>Program</u>	<u>New Enrollees</u>	<u>Job Placements</u>	<u>End of Month Enrollment</u>
WIN	310	158	2,182
CETA-CEP	100	67	224
CETA-INST.	210	81	563
CETA-OJT	67	61	212
JOB CORPS	46	29	346
PSE TITLE II	176	37	366
PSE TITLE VI	224	84	827
PSE TITLE VI "A"	206	40	590

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - U. S.^{1/} (1967 = 100)

Percent Change From:

<u>Group</u>	<u>Sept. 1977</u>	<u>Aug. 1977</u>	<u>Sept. 1976</u>
All Items	184.0	.4%	6.6%

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE UNEMPLOYED

SEPTEMBER 1977

<u>Social Characteristics</u>	<u>Percent of Total Covered Unemployment</u>
Non-White	7.1%
Female	43.5%
Youth	7.2%
Over 45	23.9%

^{1/} The Consumer Price Index measures changes in prices of goods and services bought by urban wage earners and clerical workers, including families and single persons.

Table I
MONTANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE
NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
(in Thousands)

RESIDENCE DATA

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute ^{2/}
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent ^{1/}		
						Montana	U. S.	
1975								
January	308.7	279.8	253.0	26.8	28.9	9.4	9.0	*
February	309.6	278.2	250.8	27.4	31.4	10.2	9.1	.1
March	316.6	287.3	257.1	30.2	29.3	9.2	9.1	.3
April	320.3	292.3	259.4	32.9	28.0	8.7	8.6	.2
May	327.9	304.3	267.3	37.0	23.6	7.2	8.3	.1
June	349.1	319.7	278.9	40.8	29.4	8.4	9.1	.1
July	346.9	321.3	279.1	42.2	25.6	7.4	8.7	.2
August	350.9	327.9	280.7	47.2	23.0	6.6	8.2	*
September	340.2	317.7	279.3	38.4	22.5	6.6	8.1	.3
October	332.6	308.4	274.4	34.0	24.2	7.3	7.8	.3
November	332.4	305.8	274.3	31.5	26.6	8.0	7.8	.2
December	330.7	300.6	271.4	29.2	30.1	9.1	7.8	.2
1975 Avg.	330.5	303.6	268.8	34.8	26.9	8.1	8.5	.1
1976								
January	316.8	284.0	263.1	20.9	32.8	10.4	8.8	*
February	317.8	287.0	263.9	23.1	30.8	9.7	8.7	*
March	325.7	295.1	267.0	28.1	30.6	9.4	8.1	*
April	333.4	307.8	272.8	35.0	25.6	7.7	7.4	*
May	336.4	314.0	277.7	36.3	22.4	6.6	6.7	*
June	353.9	325.2	283.5	41.7	28.7	8.1	8.0	.1
July	359.4	333.0	288.1	44.9	26.4	7.3	7.8	.1
August	361.2	336.0	287.6	48.4	25.2	7.0	7.6	.1
September	346.8	325.2	287.2	38.0	21.6	6.2	7.4	.1
October	337.2	316.3	283.8	32.5	20.9	6.2	7.2	.1
November	334.0	310.8	282.6	28.2	23.2	7.0	7.4	.1
December	329.6	305.0	280.6	24.4	24.6	7.5	7.4	.1
1976 Avg.	337.7	311.6	278.2	33.4	26.1	7.7	7.7	.1
1977								
January	330.9	299.0	276.4	22.6	31.9	9.7	8.3	.1
February	332.2	302.9	278.1	24.8	29.4	8.8	8.5	.1
March	338.2	311.2	281.3	29.9	27.0	8.0	7.9	.1
April	345.7	322.0	285.0	37.0	23.7	6.9	6.9	.1
May	349.3	329.4	291.2	38.2	19.9	5.7	6.4	.1
June	365.7	342.9	299.4	43.5	22.8	6.2	7.5	.2
July	376.1	352.3	305.8	46.5	23.8	6.3	7.0	3.3
August	377.8	358.4	308.6	49.8	19.4	5.1	6.8	.2
September	365.4	347.9	309.1	38.8	17.5	4.8	6.6	.2
October	357.1	339.3	306.3	33.0	17.8	5.0		.4
November								
December								
Avg.								

^{1/} Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.

Series began January 1970.

^{2/} Non-additive - included in total employment.

Revised to 1976 Benchmarks.

* Under 50.

Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.

RESIDENCE DATA

Table II
GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)
Civilian Labor Force
NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Manage- ment Dispute ^{2/}
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent ^{1/}		
						County	State	
1975								
January	31.1	28.5	27.4	1.1	2.6	8.3	9.4	*
February	31.2	28.2	27.1	1.1	3.0	9.7	10.2	*
March	31.8	29.0	27.8	1.2	2.8	8.7	9.2	.1
April	32.5	29.8	28.5	1.3	2.7	8.3	8.7	.1
May	32.7	30.3	28.8	1.5	2.4	7.3	7.2	*
June	33.7	30.9	29.3	1.6	2.8	8.4	8.4	*
July	33.7	31.0	29.3	1.7	2.7	8.1	7.4	*
August	33.7	31.2	29.3	1.9	2.5	7.4	6.6	*
September	33.3	30.9	29.4	1.5	2.4	7.3	6.6	*
October	33.0	30.3	29.0	1.3	2.7	8.1	7.3	*
November	33.0	30.4	29.2	1.2	2.6	7.9	8.0	*
December	33.0	30.2	29.0	1.2	2.8	8.5	9.1	*
1975 Avg.	32.7	30.0	28.6	1.4	2.7	8.2	8.1	*
1976								
January	30.6	27.5	26.7	.8	3.1	10.2	10.4	*
February	30.7	27.8	26.9	.9	2.9	9.5	9.7	*
March	31.3	28.3	27.2	1.1	3.0	9.6	9.4	*
April	31.5	29.0	27.6	1.4	2.5	8.0	7.7	*
May	31.9	29.6	28.2	1.4	2.3	7.2	6.6	*
June	33.7	30.5	28.9	1.6	3.2	9.5	8.1	*
July	33.4	30.6	28.8	1.8	2.8	8.5	7.3	*
August	33.0	30.4	28.5	1.9	2.6	7.9	7.0	*
September	32.3	30.2	28.7	1.5	2.1	6.6	6.2	*
October	32.4	30.2	28.9	1.3	2.2	6.7	6.2	*
November	32.1	29.9	28.8	1.1	2.2	7.0	7.0	*
December	32.2	30.0	29.0	1.0	2.2	6.8	7.5	*
1976 Avg.	32.1	29.5	28.2	1.3	2.6	8.1	7.7	*
1977								
January	32.2	29.2	28.3	.9	3.0	9.2	9.7	*
February	31.8	29.3	28.3	1.0	2.5	7.8	8.8	*
March	32.4	30.0	28.8	1.2	2.4	7.3	8.0	*
April	32.5	30.5	29.0	1.5	2.0	6.2	6.9	*
May	32.9	31.0	29.5	1.5	1.9	5.6	5.7	*
June	34.2	32.0	30.3	1.7	2.2	6.4	6.2	*
July	34.2	32.0	30.2	1.8	2.2	6.5	6.3	.8
August	33.9	32.0	30.0	2.0	1.9	5.6	5.1	*
September	33.9	32.1	30.6	1.5	1.8	5.4	4.8	*
October	34.5	32.5	31.2	1.3	2.0	5.7	5.0	.3
November								
December								

^{1/} Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.

Series began January 1970.

^{2/} Non-additive - included in total employment.

Revised to 1976 Benchmarks.

* Under 50.

Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.

Table III
BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)
Civilian Labor Force
NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
(in Thousands)

RESIDENCE DATA

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Manage- ment Dispute ^{2/}
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent ^{1/}		
						County	State	
1975								
January	45.4	42.0	40.8	1.2	3.4	7.6	9.4	*
February	45.1	41.5	40.2	1.3	3.6	8.0	10.2	*
March	45.6	42.0	40.6	1.4	3.6	7.9	9.2	.1
April	46.8	43.4	41.9	1.5	3.4	7.3	8.7	*
May	47.1	44.5	42.8	1.7	2.6	5.6	7.2	*
June	49.0	45.6	43.7	1.9	3.4	7.0	8.4	*
July	49.5	46.3	44.4	1.9	3.2	6.5	7.4	*
August	49.2	46.1	43.9	2.2	3.1	6.2	6.6	*
September	48.5	45.6	43.8	1.8	2.9	5.9	6.6	.2
October	48.4	45.6	44.0	1.6	2.8	5.8	7.3	.2
November	49.2	46.4	45.0	1.4	2.8	5.8	8.0	*
December	48.6	45.4	44.1	1.3	3.2	6.5	9.1	*
1975 Avg.	47.7	44.5	42.9	1.6	3.2	6.7	8.1	*
1976								
January	45.2	41.5	40.5	1.0	3.7	8.2	10.4	*
February	45.2	42.0	40.9	1.1	3.2	7.2	9.7	*
March	46.1	42.7	41.4	1.3	3.4	7.4	9.4	*
April	47.1	44.3	42.7	1.6	2.8	6.0	7.7	*
May	48.2	45.9	44.2	1.7	2.3	4.8	6.6	*
June	49.4	46.0	44.1	1.9	3.4	7.0	8.1	*
July	49.5	46.4	44.3	2.1	3.1	6.3	7.3	*
August	49.0	46.2	44.0	2.2	2.8	5.8	7.0	*
September	48.9	46.5	44.8	1.7	2.4	4.9	6.2	*
October	49.7	47.4	45.9	1.5	2.3	4.7	6.2	*
November	50.3	47.8	46.5	1.3	2.5	4.9	7.0	*
December	50.3	47.5	46.4	1.1	2.8	5.6	7.5	*
1976 Avg.	48.2	45.3	43.8	1.5	2.9	6.0	7.7	*
1977								
January	50.0	46.2	45.2	1.0	3.8	7.6	9.7	*
February	50.2	46.8	45.7	1.1	3.4	6.7	8.8	*
March	50.5	47.5	46.1	1.4	3.0	6.0	8.0	*
April	50.4	47.8	46.1	1.7	2.6	5.1	6.9	*
May	50.4	48.1	46.3	1.8	2.3	4.5	5.7	*
June	51.9	49.5	47.5	2.0	2.4	4.6	6.2	*
July	52.3	49.7	47.6	2.1	2.6	5.0	6.3	.1
August	51.6	49.6	47.3	2.3	2.0	3.9	5.1	.1
September	51.4	49.5	47.7	1.8	1.9	3.7	4.8	.1
October	52.7	50.6	49.1	1.5	2.1	4.0	5.0	.1
November								
December								
Avg.								

^{1/} Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.

Series began January 1970.

^{2/} Non-additive - included in total employment.

Revised to 1976 Benchmarks.

* Under 50.

Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.

Table IV
MONTANA

Statewide Employment by Industry

in Thousands

INDUSTRY	Sept. 1977	Aug. 1977	Sept. 1976	Net Changes to Current Month from:	
				Aug. 1977	Sept. 1976
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS ^{1/}	365.4	377.8	346.8	-12.4	18.6
EMPLOYED PERSONS	347.9	358.4	325.2	-10.5	22.7
Persons Employed in Agriculture	38.8	49.8	38.0	-11.0	.8
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	17.5	19.4	21.6	-1.9	-4.1
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted ^{2/}	4.8	5.1	6.2	-.3	-1.4
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted ^{2/}	6.1	6.5	7.7	-.4	-1.6
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data)	276.7	274.7	257.7	1.9	19.0
MANUFACTURING	24.9	24.0	24.8	.9	.1
Durable Goods	16.4	15.3	15.9	1.1	.5
24 Lumber and Wood Products	10.6	9.4	9.8	1.2	.8
33 Primary Metal Industries	3.0	3.0	3.3	0	-.3
Other Durable Goods	2.8	2.9	2.8	-.1	0
Nondurable Goods	8.5	8.7	8.9	-.2	-.4
20 Food and Kindred Products	3.7	3.8	3.9	-.1	-.2
27 Printing and Publishing	2.0	1.9	2.0	.1	0
29 Petroleum and Coal Products	1.3	1.3	1.4	0	-.1
Other Nondurable Goods	1.5	1.7	1.6	-.2	-.1
MINING	5.7	5.7	6.0	0	-.3
10 Metal Mining	2.0	2.0	2.4	0	-.4
12 & 14 Bitum. Coal, Quarrying, Non-Metal Mining	1.4	1.3	1.5	.1	-.1
13 Oil and Gas Extraction	2.3	2.4	2.1	-.1	.2

<u>CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION</u>	16.3	16.6	16.4	- .3	- .1
15 General Building Contractors	5.5	5.5	5.6	0	- .1
16 Heavy Construction Contractors	4.9	5.3	4.7	- .4	.2
17 Special Trade Contractors	5.9	5.8	6.1	.1	- .2
<u>TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES</u>	20.4	20.4	19.7	0	.7
40 Railroad Transportation	6.4	6.4	6.3	0	1
41-47 Transportation, except Railroad	5.8	5.8	5.9	0	- .1
48 & 49 Commun., Electric, Gas, Sanitary Services ..	8.2	8.2	7.5	0	.7
<u>WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE</u>	70.6	70.0	65.6	.6	5.0
Wholesale Trade	17.0	16.9	15.0	.1	2.0
Retail Trade	53.6	53.1	50.6	.5	3.0
53 & 56 General Merchandise, Apparel, Accessories ..	8.8	8.3	7.5	.5	1.3
54 Food Stores	6.8	6.8	6.7	0	.1
55 Automotive Dealers, Service Stations	8.2	8.2	8.7	0	- .5
58 Eating and Drinking Places	20.9	20.9	18.6	0	2.3
52, 57, 59 Bldg. Mat., Farm Equip., Furn., Misc. ..	8.9	8.9	9.1	0	- .2
<u>FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE</u>	11.5	11.5	10.8	0	.7
<u>SERVICES</u>	52.3	52.2	49.6	.1	2.7
70 Hotels and other Lodging Places	8.3	8.3	7.3	0	1.0
72 Personal Services	2.5	2.5	2.4	0	.1
80 Medical and other Health Services	16.4	16.3	15.3	.1	1.1
Other Services	25.1	25.1	24.6	0	.5
<u>GOVERNMENT</u>	75.0	74.3	64.8	.7	10.2
91 Federal Government	15.5	15.6	13.9	- .1	1.6
92 State Colleges and Universities	8.9	8.9	9.0	0	- .1
93 Other State Government	11.7	11.7	10.4	0	1.3
93 Local Education	23.7	22.9	18.4	.8	5.3
93 Other Local Government	15.2	15.2	13.1	0	2.1

- 1/ Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers. Current month preliminary. Revised to 1976 Benchmarks.
- 2/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers. Establishment Series began January 1964; Residence Series began January 1970.

RESIDENCE DATA

(ESTABLISHMENT DATA in italics)

Table V

GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)

Employment by Industry

SEPTEMBER 1977

in Thousands

INDUSTRY	Sept. 1977	Aug. 1977	Sept. 1976	Net Changes to Current Month from:	
				Aug. 1977	Sept. 1976
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS ^{1/}	33.9	33.9	32.3	0	1.6
EMPLOYED PERSONS	32.1	32.0	30.2	.1	1.9
Persons Employed in Agriculture	1.5	2.0	1.5	-.5	0
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	1.8	1.9	2.1	-.1	-.3
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted ^{2/}	5.4	5.6	6.6	-.2	-1.2
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted ^{2/} ..	6.5	6.2	7.7	.3	-1.2
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data)	29.2	28.6	26.6	.6	2.6
Manufacturing	1.6	1.6	1.6	0	0
Contract Construction	1.9	1.9	2.0	0	-.1
Transportation and Public Utilities ...	1.9	1.9	1.8	0	.1
Trade	8.7	8.5	8.3	.2	.4
Wholesale Trade	2.2	2.1	2.3	.1	-.1
Retail Trade	6.5	6.4	6.0	.1	.5
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	1.7	1.8	1.6	-.1	.1
Services and Mining	7.0	7.1	5.6	-.1	1.4
Government	6.4	5.8	5.7	.6	.7
Federal Government	2.2	2.2	2.1	0	.1
State and Local Government	4.2	3.6	3.6	.6	.6

^{1/} Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers.

^{2/} Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.
Current month preliminary.

Revised to 1976 Benchmarks.

Table VI
BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)

Employment by Industry

SEPTEMBER 1977

in Thousands

INDUSTRY	Sept. 1977	Aug. 1977	Sept. 1976	Net Changes to Current Month from:	
				Aug. 1977	Sept. 1976
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS ^{1/}	51.4	51.6	48.9	-.2	2.5
EMPLOYED PERSONS	49.5	49.6	46.5	-.1	3.0
Persons Employed in Agriculture	1.8	2.3	1.7	-.5	.1
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	1.9	2.0	2.4	-.1	-.5
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted ^{2/}	3.7	3.9	4.9	-.2	-1.2
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted ^{2/} ..	4.5	4.3	5.8	.2	-1.3
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data)	43.3	42.7	40.1	.6	3.2
Manufacturing	3.4	3.5	3.6	-.1	-.2
Contract Construction	2.5	2.5	2.3	0	.2
Transportation and Public Utilities ...	3.3	3.3	3.2	0	.1
Trade	15.2	15.2	13.3	0	1.9
Wholesale Trade	5.7	5.8	4.6	-.1	1.1
Retail Trade	9.5	9.4	8.7	.1	.8
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	2.0	2.0	1.9	0	.1
Services and Mining	8.0	7.9	7.8	.1	.2
Government	8.9	8.3	8.0	.6	.9
Federal Government	2.0	2.0	1.8	0	.2
State and Local Government	6.9	6.3	6.2	.6	.7

^{1/} Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships;
includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers.

^{2/} Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.
Current month preliminary.

Revised to 1976 Benchmarks.

Table VII

MONTANA LABOR MARKET AREAS^{1/}

Civilian Labor Force

in Thousands

	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE			EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	July 1977	Aug. 1977	Sept. 1977	July 1977	Aug. 1977	Sept. 1977	July 1977	Aug. 1977	Sept. 1977	July 1977	Aug. 1977	Sept. 1977
STATEWIDE	376.1	377.8	365.4	352.3	358.4	347.9	23.8	19.4	17.5	6.3	5.1	4.8
GREAT FALLS SMSA	34.2	33.9	33.9	32.0	32.0	32.1	2.2	1.9	1.8	6.5	5.6	5.4
BILLINGS SMSA	52.3	51.6	51.4	49.7	49.6	49.5	2.6	2.0	1.9	5.0	3.9	3.7
BALANCE OF STATE ^{2/}	289.6	292.3	280.1	270.6	276.8	266.3	19.0	15.5	13.8	6.6	5.3	4.9
ANACONDA-BUTTE	39.4	37.0	36.4	36.0	34.5	34.2	3.4	2.5	2.2	8.7	6.8	6.0
BOZEMAN	25.6	26.4	25.8	24.3	25.4	24.9	1.3	1.0	.9	5.1	3.6	3.4
GLASGOW	19.3	19.9	18.6	18.0	18.9	17.8	1.3	1.0	.8	6.6	5.0	4.3
GLENDIVE	15.7	16.3	15.7	15.1	15.8	15.3	.6	.5	.4	4.0	2.6	2.3
HARDIN-RED LODGE	13.5	14.0	13.1	12.8	13.4	12.5	.7	.6	.6	5.0	4.6	4.3
HAVRE	14.3	14.7	14.1	13.6	14.1	13.6	.7	.6	.5	5.2	4.2	3.8
HELENA	26.9	27.0	27.2	25.3	25.6	25.9	1.6	1.4	1.3	5.9	5.1	4.8
KALISPELL	34.4	34.9	34.0	31.3	32.2	31.6	3.1	2.7	2.4	8.9	7.6	7.0
LEWISTOWN	12.2	12.6	11.6	11.7	12.2	11.3	.5	.4	.3	4.5	3.5	3.0
MILES CITY	16.3	17.0	15.9	15.6	16.4	15.4	.7	.6	.5	4.5	3.5	3.3
MISSOULA	48.1	48.5	48.3	44.4	45.3	45.3	3.7	3.2	3.0	7.8	6.6	6.2
SHELBY-CUT BANK	19.9	20.6	19.3	18.8	19.6	18.4	1.1	1.0	.9	5.6	4.8	4.5

^{1/} A list of counties included in each Labor Market Area appears on "New Business Firms" page.^{2/} Statewide, excluding Great Falls and Billings Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas.

Totals may not add due to rounding.

Map inside back cover.

TABLE VIII

MONTANA LABOR MARKET AREAS^{1/}

Civilian Labor Force

in Thousands

	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE			EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	Sept. 1977	Sept. 1976	Percent Change 1976- 1977	Sept. 1977	Sept. 1976	Percent Change 1976- 1977	Sept. 1977	Sept. 1976	Net Change 1976- 1977	Sept. 1977	Sept. 1976	Net Change 1976- 1977
STATEWIDE	365.4	346.8	5.4	347.9	325.2	7.0	17.5	21.6	-4.1	4.8	6.2	-1.4
GREAT FALLS SMSA	33.9	32.3	5.0	32.1	30.2	6.3	1.8	2.1	-.3	5.4	6.6	-1.2
BILLINGS SMSA	51.4	48.9	5.1	49.5	46.5	6.5	1.9	2.4	-.5	3.7	4.9	-1.2
BALANCE OF STATE ^{2/}	280.1	265.6	5.5	266.3	248.5	7.2	13.8	17.1	-3.3	4.9	6.4	-1.5
ANACONDA-BUTTE	36.4	36.3	.3	34.2	33.0	3.6	2.2	3.3	-1.1	6.0	9.1	-3.1
BOZEMAN	25.8	25.5	1.2	24.9	24.1	3.3	.9	1.4	-.5	3.4	5.6	-2.2
GLASGOW	18.6	17.9	3.9	17.8	17.0	4.7	.8	.9	-.1	4.3	5.1	-.8
GLENDALE	15.7	14.8	6.1	15.3	14.4	6.2	.4	.4	0	2.3	3.1	-.8
HARDIN-RED LODGE	13.1	12.3	6.5	12.5	11.8	5.9	.6	.5	.1	4.3	4.2	.1
HAVRE	14.1	12.9	9.3	13.6	12.3	10.6	.5	.6	-.1	3.8	4.5	-.7
HELENA	27.2	24.2	12.4	25.9	22.8	13.6	1.3	1.4	-.1	4.8	5.8	-1.0
KALISPELL	34.0	33.3	2.1	31.6	30.3	4.3	2.4	3.0	-.6	7.0	9.0	-2.0
LEWISTOWN	11.6	11.6	0	11.3	11.2	.9	.3	.4	-.1	3.0	3.8	-.8
MILES CITY	15.9	14.9	6.7	15.4	14.3	7.7	.5	.6	-.1	3.3	3.8	-.5
MISSOULA	48.3	43.3	11.5	45.3	39.7	14.1	3.0	3.6	-.6	6.2	8.3	-2.1
SHELBY-CUT BANK	19.3	18.4	4.9	18.4	17.6	4.5	.9	.8	.1	4.5	4.3	.2

^{1/} A list of counties included in each Labor Market Area appears on "New Business Firms" page. Map inside back cover.^{2/} Statewide, excluding Great Falls and Billings Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas.
Totals may not add due to rounding.

TABLE IX MONTANA MONTHLY LABOR FORCE, BY COUNTY
SEPTEMBER 1977

COUNTY	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	PERCENT RATE
STATEWIDE	365399	347923	17476	4.8
CASCADE	33905	32072	1833	5.4
YELLOWSTONE	51422	49529	1893	3.7
BEAVERHEAD	4828	4721	107	2.2
BIG HORN	4923	4623	300	6.1
BLAINE	3310	3171	139	4.2
BROADWATER	1572	1503	69	4.4
CARBON	3770	3619	151	4.0
CARTER	1045	1025	20	1.9
CHOTEAU	3530	3440	90	2.5
CUSTER	5812	5601	211	3.6
DANIELS	1594	1555	39	2.4
DAWSON	5352	5202	150	2.8
DEER LODGE	6648	6196	452	6.8
FALLON	2246	2204	42	1.9
FERGUS	5915	5736	179	3.0
FLATHEAD	19751	18488	1263	6.4
GALLATIN	19149	18526	623	3.3
GARFIELD	1145	1128	17	1.5
GLACIER	6033	5652	381	6.3
GOLDEN VALLEY	507	482	25	4.9
GRANITE	1164	1108	56	4.8
HILL	9519	9158	361	3.8
JEFFERSON	2854	2676	178	6.2
JUDITH BASIN	1416	1391	25	1.8
LAKE	7448	6993	455	6.1
LEWIS AND CLARK	22814	21763	1051	4.6
LIBERTY	1310	1278	32	2.4
LINCOLN	6818	6141	677	9.9
MC CONE	1790	1753	37	2.1
MADISON	2680	2595	85	3.2
MEAGHER	910	888	22	2.4
MINERAL	1687	1592	95	5.6
MISSOULA	34708	32684	2024	5.8
MUSSELSHELL	1971	1885	86	4.4
PARK	5745	5504	241	4.2
PETROLEUM	387	379	8	2.1
PHILLIPS	2881	2778	103	3.6
PONDERA	3841	3664	177	4.6
POWDER RIVER	1244	1212	32	2.6
POWELL	3396	3224	172	5.1
PRAIRIE	1119	1104	15	1.3
RAVALLI	7173	6621	552	7.7
RICHLAND	5532	5402	130	2.3
ROOSEVELT	6257	6025	232	3.7
ROSEBUD	5011	4808	203	4.1
SANDERS	4790	4442	348	7.3
SHERIDAN	2696	2652	44	1.6
SILVER BOW	17612	16322	1290	7.3
STILLWATER	2653	2585	68	2.6
SWEET GRASS	1764	1721	43	2.4
TETON	2871	2772	99	3.4
TOOLE	3029	2913	116	3.8
TREASURE	558	543	15	2.7
VALLEY	5177	4800	377	7.3
WHEATLAND	1419	1390	29	2.0
WIBAUX	698	684	14	2.0

ESTABLISHMENT DATA

TABLE X

MONTANA

FEMALE EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

SEPTEMBER 1977

(In Thousands)

INDUSTRY	FEMALE EMPLOYMENT				TOTAL EMPLOYMENT COMPARISON			
	Sept. 1977 ^{1/}	Aug. 1977	Sept. 1976	Net Change to Current Month From:	Total	Percent Women	Total	Percent Women
				Aug. 1977	Sept. 1976		September 1977	August 1977
Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Workers .	111.8	111.7	103.6	.1	8.2		276.7	274.7
Manufacturing	3.1	3.1	3.3	0	-.2		24.9	24.0
Mining	.3	.3	.3	0	0		5.7	5.7
Contract Construction	1.3	1.3	1.1	0	.2		16.3	16.6
Transportation & Public Utilities .	3.8	3.8	3.6	0	.2		20.4	20.4
Wholesale & Retail Trade	30.5	30.2	28.5	.3	2.0		70.6	70.0
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate ..	7.5	7.5	7.0	0	.5		11.5	11.5
Services	32.3	32.6	30.4	-.3	1.9		52.3	52.2
Government ^{2/}	33.0	32.9	29.4	.1	3.6		75.0	74.3

^{1/} Current month preliminary.

Revised to 1976 Benchmark.

^{2/} Includes all civilian employees of Federal, State, and Local Governments regardless of the activity in which the employee is engaged.

Establishment Series began January 1974.

Prepared by the Montana Employment Security Division in Cooperation with the U. S. Department of Labor,
Bureau of Labor Statistics.

TABLE XI

MONTANA FEMALE EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

(In Thousands)

1976

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann. Avg.
Nonagricultural Wage & Salary	95.3	95.3	96.4	98.5	100.1	101.3	102.1	103.0	103.6	103.6	104.1	104.1	100.7
Manufacturing	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.7	3.0	3.1	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.2	3.1	3.0
Mining	.3	.3	1.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3
Contract Construction	.8	.8	.8	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.0	.8	1.0
Transport. & Public Utilities	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.6
Wholesale & Retail Trade	23.5	23.2	24.0	25.4	26.4	27.1	28.4	28.3	28.5	27.4	27.5	27.7	26.4
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate	6.5	6.5	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.7	6.8	7.0	7.0	6.9	6.8	6.8	6.7
Services	27.7	27.9	28.1	28.5	28.7	29.6	30.0	30.5	30.4	30.1	30.2	30.1	29.3
Government ^{1/}	30.3	30.5	30.6	30.6	30.8	30.3	29.1	28.8	29.4	31.1	31.6	31.8	30.4

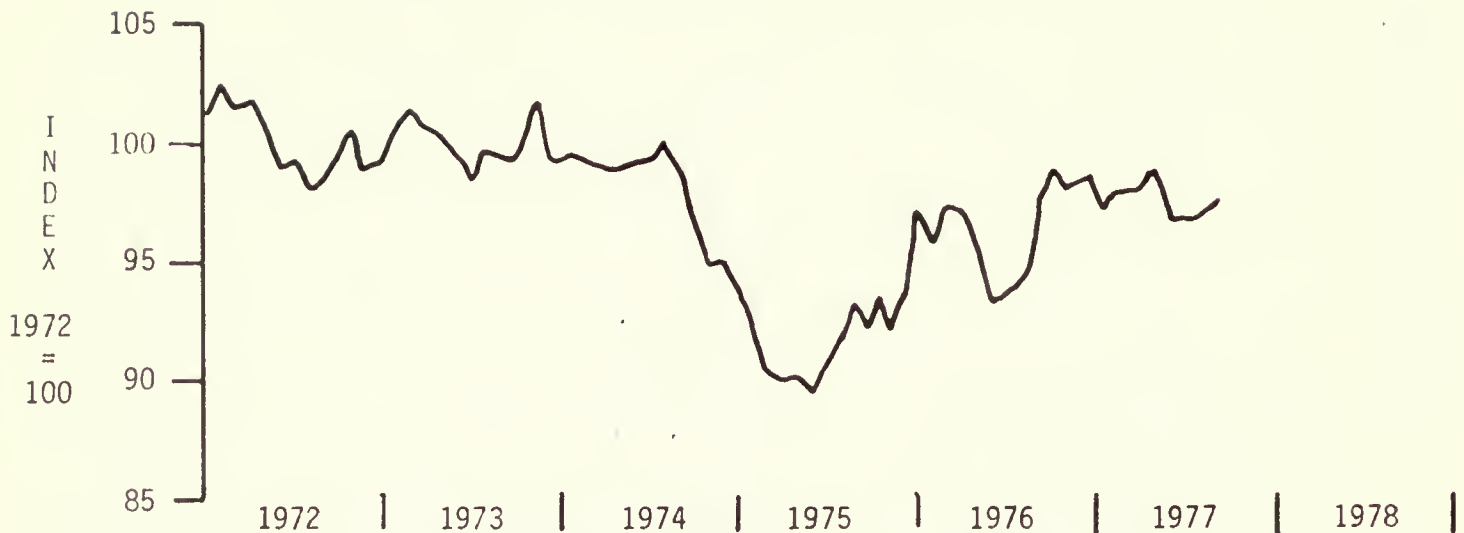
1977

Nonagricultural Wage & Salary	103.2	103.8	105.8	107.0	105.9	109.8	109.2	111.7	111.8				
Manufacturing	3.2	3.1	3.0	3.1	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.1				
Mining	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3				
Contract Construction	.8	.8	.7	.8	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.3	1.3				
Transport. & Public Utilities	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.6	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.8				
Wholesale & Retail Trade	26.8	26.7	28.0	28.8	29.0	30.6	30.2	30.2	30.5				
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate	6.8	6.9	6.9	6.9	7.0	7.1	7.2	7.5	7.5				
Services	30.5	30.7	31.1	31.4	31.3	32.4	32.6	32.6	32.3				
Government ^{1/}	31.3	31.8	32.3	32.3	30.8	31.6	30.9	32.9	33.0				

^{1/} Includes all civilian employees of Federal, State, and Local Governments regardless of the activity in which the employee is engaged.
 Revised to 1976 Benchmark.
 Prepared by Montana Employment Security Division in cooperation with U. S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

COMPOSITE INDEX OF SIX ECONOMIC INDICATORS* 7**



Composite Index of SIX ECONOMIC INDICATORS 1972 = 100

1976

January	97.2
February	95.7
March	97.6
April	96.9
May	95.0
June	93.3
July	93.9
August	94.8
September	98.1
October	99.3
November	98.3
December	98.8

1977

January	97.2
February	98.3
March	98.3
April	99.2
May	97.3
June	97.6
July	98.0
August	
September	
October	
November	
December	

MONTANA'S COMPOSITE INDEX

Following a large drop in the Layoff Rate and a sizable decrease in Average Weekly Initial Claims, Montana's Composite Index for July edged upward for the second straight month. Preliminary data which included Manufacturing Employment (off 1,400 persons) and Building Permits (down 18.3%) virtually assured a drop in the index for July. However, the reversal in the layoff rate, in addition to the decrease in initial claims, produced a slight improvement for the indicator.

Prospects for further improvements next month are excellent. The index should approach 100.0 for the first time in recent years. All components are displaying positive economic movement, at this time.

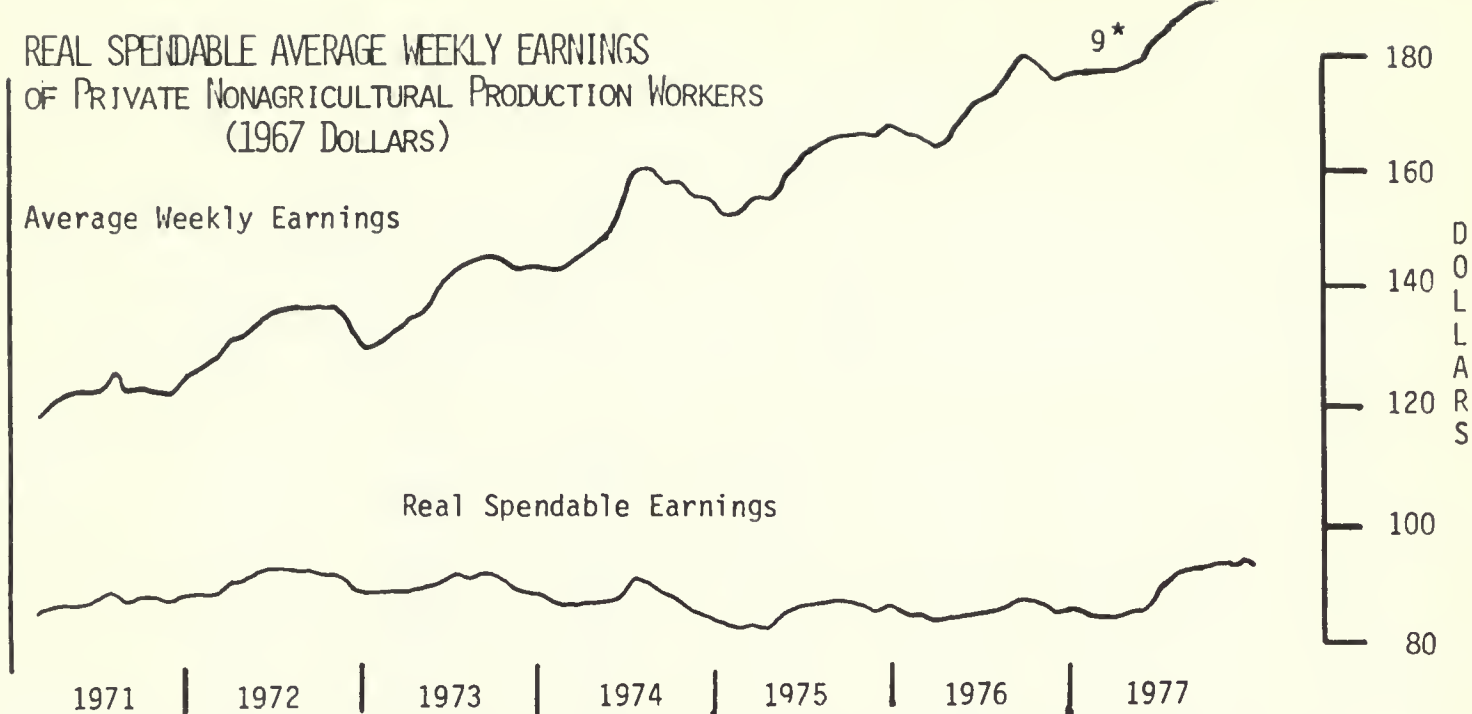
* Employment, Average Weekly Hours, Total Accessions, and Layoffs in Manufacturing; Building Permits, and Average Weekly Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims.

** Indicates last month of plotted data.

REAL SPENDABLE AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS
OF PRIVATE NONAGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION WORKERS
(1967 DOLLARS)

Average Weekly Earnings

Real Spendable Earnings



	Sept. 1977	Aug. 1977	Sept. 1976
Gross Average Weekly Earnings	\$197.58	\$200.28	\$178.92
Taxes Withheld	29.13	29.88	27.52
Spendable Earnings	168.44	170.40	151.40
Adjustment for Price Changes Since 1967	76.90	77.44	63.68
Real Spendable Earnings in 1967 Dollars	91.54	92.96	87.72

	Average Weekly Earnings ^{1/}	Real Spendable Earnings ^{2/}
1976		
July	172.67	85.92
Aug.	175.69	86.77
Sep.	178.92	87.72
Oct.	177.79	86.90
Nov.	175.02	85.54
Dec.	175.78	85.62
1977		
Jan.	175.94	85.17
Feb.	176.00	84.35
Mar.	174.94	83.40
Apr.	178.69	84.21
May	184.79	86.12
June	185.26	87.77
July	190.97	89.63
Aug.	200.28	92.96
Sep.	197.58p	91.54p
Oct.		
Nov.		
Dec.		

REAL SPENDABLE EARNINGS

In August Real Spendable Earnings reached \$92.96, a figure surpassed only in August and September of 1972. This present upward trend in real wages began in March of this year. Since then average weekly real spendable earnings have risen \$9.56 (11.5%). Preliminary data for September seem to promise a sizable decrease; however, forthcoming data from some firms should reverse this movement. Though some slight decrease could occur, no substantial change in the level of real spendable earnings should be expected.

* Indicates last month of plotted data.

p: Preliminary.

^{1/} Average weekly earnings of total private nonagricultural production workers.

^{2/} Real spendable average weekly earnings of private nonagricultural production workers.

MONTANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Manage- ment Dispute ^{1/}
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent ^{1/}		
						Montana	U. S.	
1975								
January	327.0	303.9	265.6	38.3	23.1	7.1	8.2	*
February	328.0	300.9	263.3	37.6	27.1	8.2	8.2	.1
March	326.8	301.0	265.9	35.1	25.8	7.9	8.7	.3
April	323.8	296.1	263.3	32.8	27.7	7.9	8.9	.2
May	326.8	300.0	266.1	33.9	26.8	7.9	9.2	.1
June	327.4	300.2	268.0	32.2	27.2	8.3	8.6	.1
July	326.8	300.5	268.6	31.9	26.3	8.1	8.4	.2
August	330.0	303.4	270.9	32.5	26.6	8.0	8.4	*
September	332.4	305.6	272.5	33.1	26.8	8.1	8.3	.3
October	335.3	307.3	272.6	34.7	28.0	8.4	8.6	.3
November	340.2	312.6	276.0	36.6	27.6	8.1	8.3	.2
December	340.8	311.2	272.6	38.6	29.6	8.7	8.3	.2
1975 Avg.	330.4	303.5	268.7	34.8	26.9	8.1	8.5	.1
1976								
January	335.4	308.3	275.8	32.5	27.1	8.1	7.8	*
February	336.6	310.1	276.7	33.4	26.5	7.9	7.6	*
March	336.0	308.9	275.9	33.0	27.1	8.1	7.5	*
April	337.2	311.9	276.8	35.1	25.3	7.5	7.5	*
May	335.5	309.9	276.8	33.1	25.6	7.6	7.3	*
June	332.0	305.7	272.6	33.1	26.3	7.9	7.5	.1
July	339.0	312.0	277.5	34.5	27.0	8.0	7.8	.1
August	340.5	311.6	277.9	33.7	28.9	8.5	7.9	.1
September	339.1	313.1	280.3	32.8	26.0	7.7	7.8	.1
October	339.6	314.8	281.8	33.0	24.8	7.3	7.9	.1
November	341.5	317.4	284.3	33.1	24.1	7.1	8.1	.1
December	339.4	315.2	281.5	33.7	24.2	7.1	7.8	.1
1976 Avg.	337.7	311.6	278.2	33.4	26.1	7.7	7.7	.1
1977								
January	349.6	323.4	289.2	34.2	26.2	7.5	7.3	.1
February	351.2	326.1	291.0	35.1	25.1	7.1	7.5	.1
March	348.7	325.1	290.2	34.9	23.6	6.8	7.3	.1
April	349.5	326.2	288.9	37.3	23.3	6.7	7.0	.1
May	348.5	325.3	290.4	34.9	23.2	6.7	6.9	.1
June	343.7	323.4	288.4	35.0	20.3	5.9	7.1	.2
July	355.6	331.2	295.0	36.2	24.4	6.9	6.9	3.3
August	357.2	334.1	298.9	35.2	23.1	6.5	7.1	.2
September	357.9	335.9	302.2	33.7	22.0	6.1	6.9	.2
October								
November								
December								

^{1/} Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.

Series began January 1970.

^{2/} Non-additive - included in total employment.

Revised to 1976 Benchmarks.

^{3/} Under 50.

Current month preliminary.

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

RESIDENCE DATA

TABLE XIII
GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)
Civilian Labor Force
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Manage- ment Dispute ^{2/}
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent ^{1/}		
						County	State	
1975								
January	32.6	30.4	28.9	1.5	2.2	6.6	7.1	*
February	32.6	29.9	28.4	1.5	2.7	8.4	8.2	*
March	32.6	30.0	28.6	1.4	2.6	7.8	7.9	.1
April	32.6	29.8	28.5	1.3	2.8	8.7	7.9	.1
May	32.4	29.8	28.5	1.3	2.6	7.9	7.9	*
June	32.1	29.7	28.4	1.3	2.4	7.5	8.3	*
July	32.3	29.7	28.4	1.3	2.6	8.1	8.1	*
August	32.6	30.0	28.7	1.3	2.6	8.0	8.0	*
September	32.8	30.1	28.8	1.3	2.7	8.3	8.1	*
October	32.9	30.0	28.6	1.4	2.9	8.9	8.4	*
November	33.4	30.6	29.2	1.4	2.8	8.2	8.1	*
December	33.4	30.5	29.0	1.5	2.9	8.7	8.7	*
1975 Avg.	32.7	30.0	28.6	1.4	2.7	8.1	8.1	*
1976								
January	32.1	29.4	28.1	1.3	2.7	8.5	8.1	*
February	32.2	29.5	28.2	1.3	2.7	8.3	7.9	*
March	32.1	29.3	28.0	1.3	2.8	8.7	8.1	*
April	31.8	29.1	27.7	1.4	2.7	8.4	7.5	*
May	31.7	29.2	27.9	1.3	2.5	7.8	7.6	*
June	32.0	29.2	27.9	1.3	2.8	8.8	7.9	*
July	32.2	29.4	28.0	1.4	2.8	8.6	8.0	*
August	31.9	29.1	27.7	1.4	2.8	8.7	8.5	*
September	31.8	29.3	28.0	1.3	2.5	7.7	7.7	*
October	32.4	29.9	28.6	1.3	2.5	7.6	7.3	*
November	32.5	30.1	28.8	1.3	2.4	7.5	7.1	*
December	32.6	30.3	29.0	1.3	2.3	7.0	7.1	*
1976 Avg.	32.1	29.5	28.2	1.3	2.6	8.1	7.7	*
1977								
January	33.7	31.1	29.7	1.4	2.6	7.6	7.5	*
February	33.3	31.0	29.6	1.4	2.3	6.8	7.1	*
March	33.2	31.0	29.6	1.4	2.2	6.5	6.8	*
April	32.8	30.6	29.1	1.5	2.2	6.6	6.7	*
May	32.6	30.6	29.2	1.4	2.0	6.2	6.7	*
June	32.6	30.8	29.4	1.4	1.8	5.5	5.9	*
July	32.9	30.8	29.4	1.4	2.1	6.5	6.9	.8
August	32.7	30.7	29.3	1.4	2.0	6.2	6.5	*
September	33.0	30.8	29.5	1.3	2.2	6.5	6.1	*
October								
November								
December								

1/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.

2/ Non-additive - included in total employment.

* Under 50.

Series began January 1970.

Revised to 1976 Benchmarks.

Current month preliminary.

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

TABLE XIV
BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)
Civilian Labor Force
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
(in Thousands)

RESIDENCE DATA

(2) 1975-77

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Management Dispute ^{2/}
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent ^{1/}		
						County	State	
1975								
January	46.9	44.0	42.3	1.7	2.9	6.1	7.1	*
February	47.1	43.8	42.1	1.7	3.3	7.1	8.2	*
March	47.0	43.8	42.2	1.6	3.2	6.7	7.9	.1
April	47.5	43.9	42.4	1.5	3.6	7.6	7.9	*
May	47.2	44.1	42.5	1.6	3.1	6.5	7.9	*
June	47.2	44.2	42.7	1.5	3.0	6.4	8.3	*
July	47.7	44.6	43.2	1.4	3.1	6.5	8.1	*
August	48.1	44.9	43.3	1.6	3.2	6.7	8.0	*
September	48.3	45.0	43.5	1.5	3.3	6.8	8.1	.2
October	48.0	44.7	43.1	1.6	3.3	6.8	8.4	.2
November	49.0	45.9	44.2	1.7	3.1	6.4	8.1	*
December	48.5	45.4	43.7	1.7	3.1	6.4	8.7	*
1975 Avg.	47.7	44.5	42.9	1.6	3.2	6.7	8.1	*
1976								
January	46.7	43.6	42.1	1.5	3.1	6.7	8.1	*
February	47.3	44.3	42.8	1.5	3.0	6.3	7.9	*
March	47.5	44.5	43.0	1.5	3.0	6.3	8.1	*
April	47.7	44.7	43.1	1.6	3.0	6.2	7.5	*
May	48.2	45.4	43.9	1.5	2.8	5.7	7.6	*
June	47.7	44.6	43.0	1.6	3.1	6.4	7.9	*
July	47.7	44.7	43.2	1.5	3.0	6.2	8.0	*
August	47.9	44.9	43.3	1.6	3.0	6.3	8.5	*
September	48.6	45.8	44.3	1.5	2.8	5.8	7.7	*
October	49.4	46.6	45.1	1.5	2.8	5.7	7.3	*
November	50.2	47.4	45.9	1.5	2.8	5.5	7.1	*
December	50.2	47.4	45.9	1.5	2.8	5.6	7.1	*
1976 Avg.	48.2	45.3	43.8	1.5	2.9	6.0	7.7	*
1977								
January	51.4	48.2	46.7	1.5	3.2	6.2	7.5	*
February	52.3	49.2	47.6	1.6	3.1	5.9	7.1	*
March	51.9	49.3	47.7	1.6	2.6	5.0	6.8	*
April	51.0	48.3	46.6	1.7	2.7	5.3	6.7	*
May	50.3	47.6	46.0	1.6	2.7	5.4	6.7	*
June	50.2	48.2	46.6	1.6	2.0	4.0	5.9	*
July	50.5	48.0	46.4	1.6	2.5	4.8	6.9	.1
August	50.5	48.3	46.6	1.7	2.2	4.3	6.5	.1
September	51.2	48.9	47.3	1.6	2.3	4.5	6.1	.1
October								
November								
December								

^{1/} Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.

^{2/} Non-additive - included in total employment.

* Under 50.

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

Series began January 1970.

Revised to 1976 Benchmarks.

Current month preliminary.

MONTANA HOURS AND EARNINGS

For Private Nonagricultural Industries

OCTOBER 1977

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Oct. 1977	Sept 1977	Oct. 1976	Oct. 1977	Sept 1977	Oct. 1976	Oct. 1977	Sept 1977	Oct. 1976
TOTAL PRIVATE	\$197.58	\$200.28	\$178.92	35.6	35.7	36.0	\$5.55	\$5.61	\$4.97
MANUFACTURING									
Durable Goods	275.85	273.49	260.65	42.9	42.6	40.6	6.43	6.42	6.42
Primary Metal Industries	278.57	278.42	246.69	43.8	43.3	41.6	6.36	6.43	5.93
Nondurable Goods	279.74	281.94	289.17	37.2	37.0	37.8	7.52	7.62	7.65
Food and Kindred Products	268.52	261.12	256.74	40.5	40.8	38.1	6.63	6.40	6.72
	244.92	241.82	237.76	42.3	42.8	36.3	5.79	5.65	6.55
MINING									
Metal Mining	367.11	374.69	299.88	42.1	42.1	42.0	8.72	8.90	7.14
	437.96	437.96	295.50	41.2	41.2	39.4	10.63	10.63	7.50
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	417.69	429.46	337.59	39.0	38.9	40.5	10.71	11.04	8.34
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	313.02	314.61	277.47	42.3	42.4	41.6	7.40	7.42	6.67
Communications, Electric, Gas, Sanitary Services	275.37	275.37	254.16	42.3	42.3	40.6	6.51	6.51	6.26
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	158.24	163.45	135.45	34.4	35.0	35.0	4.60	4.67	3.87
FINANCE, INSURANCE, AND REAL ESTATE	130.53	129.78	123.87	37.4	37.4	35.8	3.49	3.47	3.46
SERVICES	111.80	111.80	111.60	29.5	29.5	31.0	3.79	3.79	3.60

Data for current month are preliminary.

Averages are based on gross earnings, including overtime and premium pay.

Selected Industries series began January 1950; Total Private Sector series began January 1969 (May 1972 issue).

Prepared by U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

MONTANA LABOR TURNOVER RATES
In Manufacturing and Mining Industries
(per 100 employees)

AUGUST 1977

	ACCESSION RATES				SEPARATION RATES								
	Total		New Hires		Total		Quits		Layoffs				
	Aug. 1977	July 1977	Aug. 1976	Aug. 1977	July 1977	Aug. 1976	Aug. 1977	July 1977	Aug. 1977	July 1977	Aug. 1976		
MANUFACTURING	4.4	3.4	3.1	4.0	3.2	2.8	4.7	2.7	1.5	2.3	0.5	0.6	0.7
Durable Goods	4.1	3.7	2.9	3.6	3.6	2.6	5.3	2.6	1.5	2.4	0.7	0.4	0.5
Primary Metal Industries	2.3	1.9	1.3	1.8	1.9	0.4	6.6	1.8	2.9	1.0	3.0	*	1.4
Nondurable Goods	5.0	2.7	3.4	4.6	2.6	3.1	3.6	2.9	3.7	2.2	0.1	0.9	1.0
MINING	3.2	1.0	2.5	2.3	0.8	1.6	1.5	3.6	5.4	0.8	0.2	0.1	2.8
Metal Mining	2.2	2.0	2.3	0.1	0.8	0.5	0.9	12.9	2.1	0.2	0.1	0.5	0.2

* Less than .05.

Prepared by U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.
Series began January 1959.

TABLE XVII
NEW BUSINESS FIRMS IN MONTANA
BY INDUSTRY

New business firms in Montana are a reflection of economic activity within the business community. Data furnished on this page and the following page are an aggregate of information supplied by the office of the Montana Secretary of State and the Montana Employment Security Division. These data should in no way be construed as being absolute. They are presented to indicate business trends during the survey period.

The chart on the following page is a break-down by county and labor market area of business starts in Montana during the current month and year to date, with a comparison to the previous year.

The following chart is a break-down of new businesses by industry, with a comparison to last year.

<u>Industry</u>	<u>Sept. 1977</u>	<u>Sept. 1976</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	
			<u>1977</u>	<u>1976</u>
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, AND FISHERIES	10	21	209	222
MINING	7	9	105	84
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	66	31	685	402
MANUFACTURING	20	6	166	114
TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATION, ELECTRIC, GAS, AND SANITARY SERVICES	15	7	136	82
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	107	66	952	537
FINANCE, INSURANCE, AND REAL ESTATE	40	23	335	211
SERVICES	115	93	1,036	750
GOVERNMENT	0	0	0	0
NOT ELSEWHERE CLASSIFIED	1	1	68	18
STATE TOTAL	381	257	3,692	2,420

NEW BUSINESS FIRMS IN MONTANA

BY LABOR MARKET AREA

NEW BUSINESS FIRMS					NEW BUSINESS FIRMS				
Areas	Sept. 1977	Sept. 1976	Year to Date		Areas	Sept. 1977	Sept. 1976	Year to Date	
			1977	1976				1977	1976
STATE OF MONTANA	381	257	3,692	2,420	HAVRE LMA	6	9	120	89
					Blaine	1	2	16	12
					Hill	5	7	81	63
GREAT FALLS SMSA	36	22	409	213	Liberty	0	0	23	14
					HELENA LMA	28	24	290	171
BILLINGS SMSA	68	40	573	400	Broadwater	0	2	17	8
					Jefferson	0	0	17	9
					Lewis and Clark	28	22	256	154
ANACONDA-BUTTE LMA	28	23	256	191	KALISPELL LMA	57	36	452	299
Beaverhead	4	1	34	26	Flathead	34	27	309	198
Deer Lodge	5	3	29	26	Lake	13	3	81	66
Granite	0	0	6	6	Lincoln	10	6	62	35
Madison	3	2	27	18	LEWISTOWN LMA	8	5	87	46
Powell	1	3	18	16	Fergus	6	3	61	27
Silver Bow	15	14	142	99	Golden Valley	0	0	3	4
BOZEMAN LMA	30	24	342	200	Judith Basin	1	1	6	1
Gallatin	28	21	270	165	Musselshell	0	1	14	11
Meagher	1	1	5	6	Petroleum	0	0	0	2
Park	1	2	67	29	Wheatland	1	0	3	1
GLASGOW LMA	7	9	104	101	MILES CITY LMA	11	11	108	109
Daniels	1	0	10	21	Carter	0	0	7	5
Phillips	4	1	16	5	Custer	7	6	60	54
Roosevelt	1	4	21	30	Fallon	1	3	9	14
Sheridan	0	2	20	19	Powder River	0	0	4	11
Valley	1	2	37	26	Rosebud	3	2	24	22
GLENDIVE LMA	12	4	127	72	Treasure	0	0	4	3
Dawson	3	2	36	20	MISSOULA LMA	71	30	591	356
Garfield	1	0	6	5	Mineral	0	0	12	12
McCone	0	0	9	9	Missoula	53	26	440	265
Prairie	1	1	13	7	Ravalli	13	2	97	41
Richland	7	1	61	30	Sanders	5	2	42	38
Wibaux	0	0	2	1	SHELBY-CUT BANK LMA	10	17	150	104
HARDIN-RED LODGE LMA	9	3	83	69	Chouteau	0	1	12	16
Big Horn	4	1	28	17	Glacier	6	6	34	23
Carbon	3	1	28	20	Pondera	0	4	42	25
Stillwater	2	0	19	16	Teton	0	5	13	24
Sweet Grass	0	1	8	16	Toole	4	1	49	16

Source of data: State of Montana Employment Security Division, Research and Analysis Section; Montana Secretary of State.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE: CLAIM TO PAYMENT

Many of those persons who become separated from their jobs, enter our local Job Service offices for two reasons; to seek employment and to claim unemployment insurance (UI) benefits. Claimant wage credits obtained from insured employers are examined to determine if the claim meets monetary eligibility requirements for UI benefits and, if so, for how much per week and for how many potential weeks is the claimant qualified.* Monetarily eligible claims are subsequently segregated according to criteria for establishing which party (claimant or employer) was most responsible for the job separation in question. Claims for job separations resulting from claimant actions (issues) are further subjected to the test of whether or not an individual's reduction in his potential benefit duration is warranted. If otherwise eligible and if availability criteria continue to be complied with throughout his actual unemployment duration, weekly benefit payments will commence with the claimant's second week of unemployment (a waiting week must be served under the Montana Law). The number and amount of such payments by county are shown in the table on the following page. Interstate payments in the table refer to payments made to individuals who now reside in other states but who had established wage credits in Montana based employment. Amounts shown in the table are financed through employer taxes paid to the Montana UI Trust Fund Account.

* *If sufficient wage credits have been secured by a claimant from sources other than insured employment, he may be eligible for benefits which are financed wholly or partially from federal funds.*

TABLE XIX DISTRIBUTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

SEPTEMBER 1977 COUNTY	INTRASTATE NO. OF PAYS	AMT. OF PAYS
BEAVERHEAD	86	6,401.00
BIG HORN	270	18,544.00
BLAINE	177	11,860.00
BROADWATER	41	2,859.00
CARBON	168	12,071.00
CARTER	13	1,124.00
CASCADE	2,540	173,238.00
CHOUTEAU	92	6,716.00
CUSTER	196	15,231.00
DANIELS	20	1,160.00
DAWSON	79	6,090.00
DEER LODGE	680	48,035.00
FALLON	10	567.00
FERGUS	121	9,380.00
FLATHEAD	1,277	92,142.00
GALLATIN	653	45,266.00
GARFIELD	7	679.00
GLACIER	428	30,070.00
GOLDEN VALLEY	19	1,420.00
GRANITE	47	3,315.00
HILL	359	26,668.00
JEFFERSON	280	21,386.40
JUDITH BASIN	14	872.00
LAKE	601	41,401.00
LEWIS & CLARK	1,167	91,491.00
LIBERTY	24	1,208.00
LINCOLN	718	46,652.00
MADISON	59	4,383.00
MCCONE	12	1,029.00
MEAGHER	12	711.00
MINERAL	110	7,903.00
MISSOULA	2,848	202,011.00
MUSSELSHELL	124	8,686.00
PARK	211	13,980.00
PETROLEUM	12	225.00
PHILLIPS	68	4,798.00
PONDERA	178	13,046.00
POWDER RIVER	3	240.00
POWELL	158	12,305.00
PRAIRIE	13	1,146.00
RAVALLI	545	35,975.68
RICHLAND	92	6,212.00
ROOSEVELT	198	10,833.00
ROSEBUD	231	17,939.00
SANDERS	467	38,946.00
SHERIDAN	25	1,275.00
SILVER BOW	2,755	181,391.20
STILLWATER	65	4,352.00
SWEETGRASS	35	2,017.00
TETON	119	9,936.75
TOOLE	110	8,345.00
TREASURE	13	951.00
VALLEY	557	42,990.00
WHEATLAND	25	1,442.00
WIBAUX	6	258.00
YELLOWSTONE	2,454	182,074.00
TOTAL FOR STATE	21,592	1,531,247.03
INTERSTATE	1,413	165,929.92
TOTAL	23,005	1,697,176.95

TABLE XX CUMULATIVE DISTRIBUTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

January thru September 1977 COUNTY	NO. OF PAYS	Intrastate AMT. OF PAYS
BEAVERHEAD	1,795	127,389.00
BIG HORN	3,408	253,241.00
BLAINE	1,843	126,500.00
BROADWATER	692	49,488.00
CARBON	2,397	176,862.00
CARTER	204	14,860.00
CASCADE	25,736	1,835,837.50
CHOUTEAU	1,050	71,833.00
CUSTER	3,680	293,391.00
DANIELS	363	27,536.00
DAWSON	2,687	195,274.00
DEER LODGE	7,913	604,648.00
FALLON	354	28,534.00
FERGUS	4,054	300,709.00
FLATHEAD	22,258	1,634,608.99
GALLATIN	11,752	870,295.00
GARFIELD	229	18,688.00
GLACIER	5,590	404,242.00
GOLDEN VALLEY	219	14,200.00
GRANITE	1,546	116,871.00
HILL	4,765	347,953.00
JEFFERSON	3,073	241,833.40
JUDITH BASIN	308	23,519.00
LAKE	6,784	464,997.00
LEWIS & CLARK	14,393	1,105,875.97
LIBERTY	229	15,416.00
LINCOLN	10,740	795,890.00
MADISON	1,097	71,847.00
MCCONE	393	27,469.00
MEAGHER	693	53,440.00
MINERAL	2,642	193,084.68
MISSOULA	30,079	2,145,999.50
MUSSELSHELL	2,381	180,687.00
PARK	4,566	312,755.14
PETROLEUM	41	3,006.00
PHILLIPS	1,409	95,797.00
PONDERA	1,639	120,956.00
POWDER RIVER	250	22,407.00
POWELL	3,113	245,235.00
PRAIRIE	507	41,923.00
RAVALLI	7,621	525,362.68
RICHLAND	1,823	135,148.00
ROOSEVELT	2,896	190,549.00
ROSEBUD	3,877	315,316.00
SANDERS	3,942	282,968.00
SHERIDAN	651	45,701.00
SILVER BOW	26,318	1,963,247.20
STILLWATER	1,300	104,231.00
SWEETGRASS	448	34,182.00
TETON	1,352	98,093.50
TOOLE	1,701	132,195.00
TREASURE	335	26,664.00
VALLEY	5,572	406,865.00
WHEATLAND	362	30,079.00
WIBAUX	281	16,997.00
YELLOWSTONE	34,588	2,684,653.79
TOTAL FOR STATE	279,939	20,667,350.35
INTERSTATE	19,763	1,967,590.92
TOTAL	299,702	22,634,941.27

TABLE XXI

SELECTED UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTIVITIES IN MONTANA

YEAR-TO-DATE

	<u>1977</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>Net Change</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Initial Claims ^{1/}	34,696	35,846	-1,150	-3.2
Continued Claims ^{1/}	334,215	369,169	-24,954	-6.8
Number of Benefit Payments ^{1/}	299,702	314,685	-14,983	-4.8
Amount of Benefits Paid ^{1/}	\$22,634,941	\$20,490,624	\$2,144,317	10.5

MONTHLY

	<u>September 1977</u>	<u>August 1977</u>	<u>September 1976</u>	<u>Change From Year Ago Net</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Initial Claims ^{1/}	2,488	3,061	2,395	93	3.9
Continued Claims ^{1/}	29,712	34,028	27,498	2,214	8.1
Number of Benefit Payments ^{1/}	23,005	25,648	25,220	-2,215	-8.8
Amount of Benefits Paid ^{1/}	\$1,697,177	\$1,815,207	\$1,652,156	\$45,021	2.7
Trust Fund Balance	-\$1,528,746*	\$ 750,115*	\$1,233,358**	-\$2,762,104	-223.9

^{1/} Regular Unemployment Insurance Program only.

* Excludes loans from Federal Government, which amount to \$9,284,089.

** Excludes loans from Federal Government, which amount to \$1,366,089.

In 1976, initial and continued claims declined drastically between the months of August and September. This same reaction occurred this year but not to the same extent. Thus, claims for September are down significantly from August but up from September of last year.

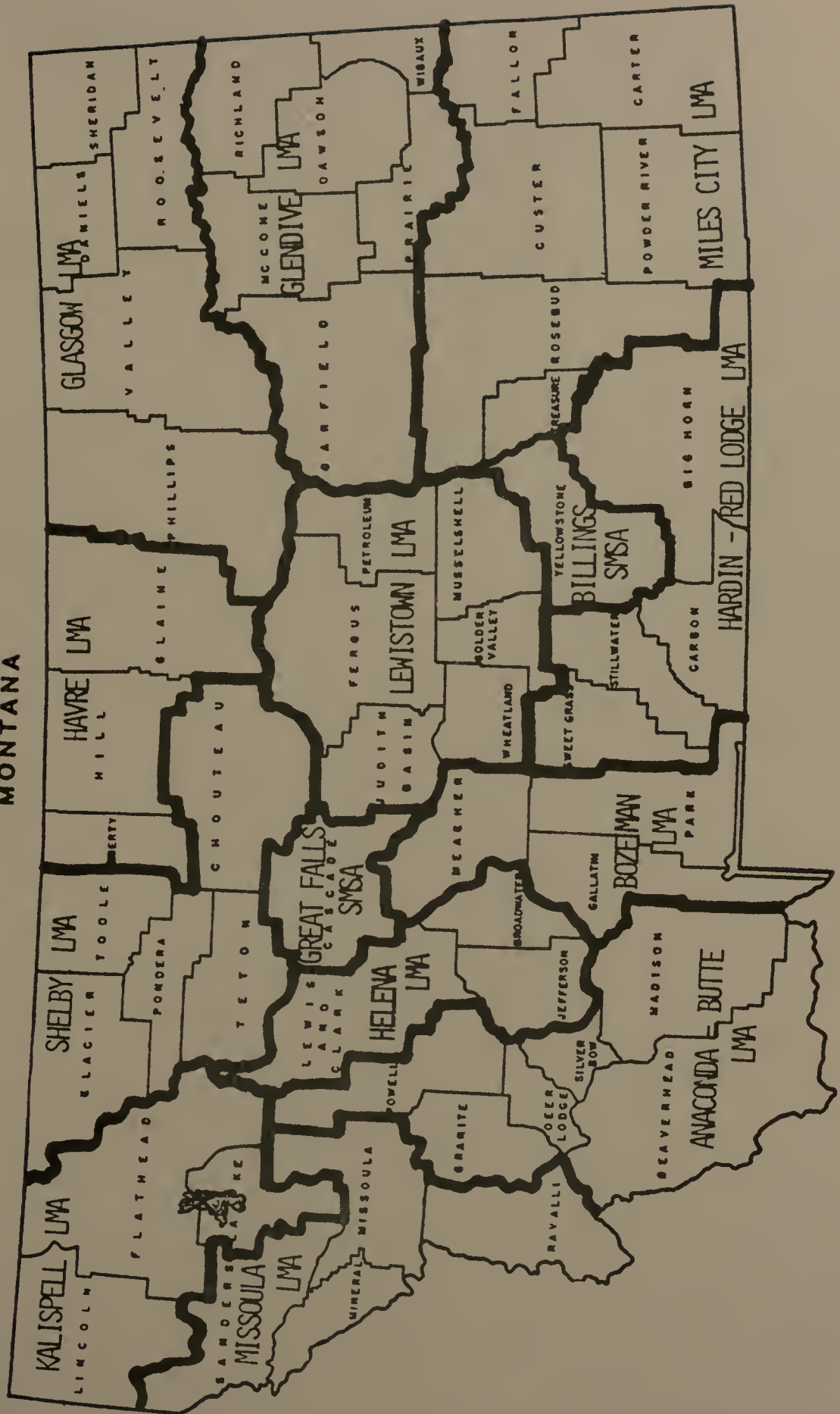
Benefit Payments, on the other hand, decreased since last year and since last month, while the Amount of Benefits Paid statistic displayed its usual inflationary increase over the year. Because of the lagging relationship between claims and payments, both payment series can be expected to drop sufficiently in October.

The Trust Fund Balance reverted into the minus column. Fortunately, this movement does not necessarily imply prolonged negativism, since collections for the third month in a quarter (September, in this instance) are usually nearly negligible in comparison to the first two months.

LABOR MARKET AREAS

IN

MONTANA



EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
P. O. Box 1728
Helena, Montana 59601

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY MAIL
LAB 449

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

The Montana State Employment Security Division maintains 23 local Job Service Offices in the principal cities of Montana. You are invited to call on any of these offices for assistance in filling positions in your organization, additional labor market information, and for other services in connection with your employment problems.